

Adams, Hope

282194

From: Adams, Hope
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 12:49 PM
To:
Subject: RE: Complaint in RE: Duke Energy 12% BFC Rate Hike

Dear Ms. Priester:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow specifically Docket No. 2018-319-E at <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116872>.

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Hope H. Adams
Administrative Coordinator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
(803) 896-5122
hope.adams@psc.sc.gov

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 12:41 PM
To: PSC_Contact <Contact@psc.sc.gov>
Subject: Complaint in RE: Duke Energy 12% BFC Rate Hike

S.C. Public Service Commission
 101 Executive Center Dr. #1
 Columbia, SC 29210

February 22, 2019

To the Public Service Commission:

My name is Courtney Priester, and I'm a Duke Energy customer. I am 27 years old, and based off of my limited income (\$29K in 2018), I am not middle-class. I cannot afford a 12% increase in my monthly Duke Energy bill because of my current cost of living expenses: my student loan debt for my Bachelor's degree; my other expenses related to my insurance, vehicle & it's maintenance.

Per month, my kilowatts average is between 400-452, meaning that I pay anywhere from \$40 to \$51/month. I've moved from my parents home and now I'm out on my own. It's hard, but thank God, I get by. I intentionally do not consume a lot of energy to keep my electric costs low, but if the Public Service Commission grants this proposal of a 12% hike, young people like me and the elderly, who tend to consume less, will be paying MORE of a percentage on our bills than those households consuming double (even triple) the monthly kilowatts that we're using. That's not right! It punishes us for conserving.

And this proposal would reduce the incentives for households to incorporate energy efficient measures and solar panel installation to decrease costs & energy consumption. Overall, this is BAD energy policy that only enriches Duke Energy shareholders' profits.

In 2013, they already increased their rates! Now, understandably, they're trying to make customers (SC Citizens) carry most of the burden of the costs of their other energy projects. Duke Energy's flat service is currently \$8.29. Please, I am BEGGING this commission to not allow Duke Energy's rate increase to exceed \$11.

I understand that \$8.29 is a low flat service cost compared to Duke Energy Progress & SCE&G. South Carolina ranks 16 out of 50 states in having the highest monthly electric costs on average, and this proposal will only increase costs and exacerbate a situation where the lowest-income households are already paying the highest range of the energy costs. It's senseless, especially with the current costs of living increasing along with inflation, which is due to increase from 1.9% in 2018 to 2.2% in 2019.

"The North Carolina Utilities Commission rejected Duke's bid last year to increase its service fee from \$11.80 to \$17.79 and instead approved a \$14 increase". I think it's only fair that the SC Public Service Commission NOT allow Duke Energy's rate increase to exceed \$11.

Thank you all for your time and consideration of this email.

Best Regards,

Courtney Priester
Duke Energy Customer